

Remarks

1. Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action mailed August 2, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,100 (Fortman et al) in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,061,440 (Delaney et al.). The Examiner objected to claims 6 and 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner admitted that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

2. Status of the Claims

Presently pending and under examination are claims 1-14, of which claim 1 is independent and the remainder are dependent.

3. Response to § 103 Rejection

As noted above, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 8-14 under § 103 as being allegedly obvious in view of Fortman in combination with Delaney. Applicant respectfully contends that the combination of Fortman and Delaney does not render claims 1-5 and 8-14 obvious under § 103.

At a minimum, neither Fortman nor Delaney suggests the feature of delivering content in a first presentation mode format to a client device while in a state of the session and, in response to a mode-switching signal received from the client device, continuing the session by delivering the content in a second presentation mode format to the client device, where the first presentation mode format is different from the second presentation mode format.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner admitted that Fortman fails to teach the feature of, in response to the mode-switching signal, continuing the session in the state by delivering the content in a second presentation mode format to the client device, wherein the second presentation mode format is different from the first presentation mode format. However the Examiner then asserted that column 8, lines 35-55, of Delaney teach this feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees that Delaney suggests this feature.

Delaney does not teach Applicant's claimed feature of delivering content to a client device in one presentation mode format and, in response to receipt of a mode-switching signal from the client device, delivering the content to the client device in a different presentation mode format. Indeed, Delaney's function of switching between a voice mode and a data mode does not achieve the benefit of the presently claimed invention, namely, to allow a change in presentation mode format of the same content, while maintaining session state.

Delaney teaches a method and system for teleconferencing that allows users to participate in a voice conference while simultaneously viewing data objects, such as slides or graphs (columns 3 line 65 – column 4 line 2). While participating in a teleconference, users can switch between a voice mode and a data mode (column 4 lines 22-30). In the voice mode, users communicate by speaking to each other. In the data mode, users send various data objects over a network, which can then be viewed by other participants in the teleconference at their respective computers. Further, users can switch between the voice mode and the data mode with a control signal (column 8 lines 35-55).

At column 8, lines 35-55, Delaney describes circuitry for switching between telephony paths (a voice mode) and a modem (a data mode). However, Delaney does not teach there or elsewhere the functional combination of delivering given content to a client device in a first

presentation mode format (e.g., an audiovisual presentation mode format), receiving a mode-switching signal from the client device, and responsively delivering the same given content to the client device in a second presentation mode format (e.g., a text presentation mode format). In Delaney, the content delivered in the voice mode (speech from various participants) is distinctly different from the content delivered in the data mode (data objects such as slides, graphs, or text).

Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable because the combination of Fortman and Delaney does not suggest the claimed feature of, in response to a mode-switching signal, continuing the session in the state by delivering the content in a second presentation mode format to the client device, wherein the second presentation mode format is different from the first presentation mode format. Further, because claims 2-5 and 8-14 depend from claim 1, it follows that claims 2-5 and 8-14 are non-obvious and allowable.

4. Allowable Subject Matter

As noted above, the Examiner admitted that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant agrees. However, Applicant respectfully submits that, because claims 6 and 7 are dependent on claim 1, claims 6 and 7 are allowable without amendment. As explained above, claim 1 is non-obvious and allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits that because claims 6 and 7 depend from an allowable claim, claims 6 and 7 are allowable as well.

5. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance. Applicant thus respectfully requests favorable reconsideration. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with the undersigned, the Examiner is welcome to call the undersigned at (312) 913-2141.

Respectfully submitted,

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